

CHS NEWS

A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

May 8, 2000

NEWS BRIEFS

Time to Change Password

Last week's computer virus alert has prompted this suggestion from the CHS Technology Resources Management Branch. Those with NT Workstation should change your password. There's a chance the virus could make your password public. Hit the Control/Alt and Delete keys and follow the instructions. Call 564-7510 with questions.

New Lights At CHR Complex

As part of the security improvements at the CHR Complex, new lights are being installed in the parking lot. The 12 posts will provide more lighting for those leaving or entering during the evening. Installation should be complete by the end of May, according to Maintenance Supervisor Phil Adkins.



Thank a nurse this week. May 6-12 is National Nurses Week. Nurses make up the largest health care profession and make countless contributions to improving health care. The more than 45,000 nurses in Kentucky save lives and make life better for us all. If you know a nurse, tell them thanks for the hard work they do.

CHS Starts Move This Month

Surplus Property Days Set For May 16-17

On May 16 & 17, the Frankfort offices of CHS will be having surplus furniture and equipment days to make the move to the 5th floor a bit easier. Now is the time to clean out and discard old furniture and equipment.

Each office should work through their property monitors to immediately identify items for surplus as movers have to be scheduled to accommodate the load. The monitors are: OPS, OGC & Secretary's office, Lisa Detherage; OIG, Roger Smiley; Aging, Bobbe Morris; Medicaid, Gina Woods; Public Health, Glenda Hager; MHMR, Ben Lathrem.

Secretary's Office Has New Numbers

The paint is about dry. The carpet is down and those new doors have been hung. It's time for the CHS Secretary's Office to move on up to the new offices on the 5th floor on May 15.

With the move comes some exciting news: New phone numbers! New addresses!

The new phone number for the CHS Secretary's Office will be 564-7042. The fax will be 564-7091. And the mail stop address will be 5W-A.

The phone numbers should be working May 15 or the next day.

Up, Up and Away...



Let's Get Physical 2000 started with a bounce and a bit of balloon chasing on Wednesday during the opening event held in the Health Services' auditorium. More than 250 people have signed up to participate in the program which is open to Frankfort CHS and CFC employees. For more information, contact Kristi Adkins at 564-7996.

Mental Health Parity Bill Passes

The Kentucky General Assembly has taken the first step toward ending insurance discrimination in the commonwealth for people with mental illness by passing House Bill 268, the mental health parity bill.

HB 268 requires insurance coverage for mental illness and substance abuse diagnostic and treatment services in the large group market be the same as coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of other medical illnesses or conditions. This requirement specifically refers to the following terms or conditions: deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses; maximum annual benefit; maximum lifetime benefit; limits on annual and lifetime illness episodes; limits on length or number of outpatient visits, inpatient days, or treatment sessions; co-payment or co-insurance amounts; prescription coverage; and benefit year maximums for deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses

This legislation does not create a mandated benefit since it doesn't require that every policy provide coverage for mental illness and substance abuse. However, it does require those plans that include coverage for mental health and substance abuse conditions provide coverage that is equal to

coverage for any physical condition. This legislation also allows for the administration of mental illness and substance abuse benefits



to be covered under a managed care plan.

Individual policies and plans in the small group market are exempt from the parity law.

United Way Honors Oakwood Fundraising

Oakwood Training Center was recently recognized by South Central Kentucky's United Way for raising \$16,517 during the *Caring Hearts Build Hope*, 1999-2000 campaign. On behalf of Oakwood employees, Doris Marcum and Beverly Morris accepted the Millennium Award for businesses raising \$15,000 or more from United Way Board president Jack Wilhelm at an April luncheon.



A Good Time Was Had by All... MH/MR's Spring Fling was reason for dancing. The cookout and live entertainment event raised \$325, bringing the total collected for March of Dimes to \$4,806, a 44 percent increase over last year.

Payroll Changes Help New State Employees

The Personnel Cabinet recently announced two new initiatives designed to lessen the fiscal hardship on new state government employees. Traditionally, new employees wait at least one month to receive their first paycheck.

Effective April 20, two new options are available. Agencies have been directed to release the first paycheck for a new full-time, part-time, or interim employee as soon as it arrives, usually during the third week of employment. Another option for new full-time employees is a low interest loan equal to 70 percent of the employee's monthly gross salary from the Commonwealth Credit Union or the Kentucky Employees Credit Union.

For more information, visit <http://kygovnet.state.ky.us/personnel/persmemo/pm00-06.pdf> or contact Mindy Hansen, the MHMRS and Aging Personnel Administrator, 502-564-9234 or Jim Lambert with Medicaid, CCSHCN, OIG, DPH, CON and Staff Offices, 502-564-2157.

The CHS News is a newsletter for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services. Please direct contributions or comments to the Office of Communications, 502-564-6786. Printed with state funds.

